

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT  
MATTHEW NEWMAN UPON RE-  
CEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED  
FLYING CROSS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Master Sergeant Matthew Newman of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Master Sergeant Matthew Newman epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Master Sergeant Matthew Newman of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOHN DAVID  
BLENCOWE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain John David Blencowe of the California Highway Patrol in recognition of his retirement and 25 years of service to the people of California.

Mr. Blencowe was born on Travis Air Force Base to Teresa and James Blencowe. He attended the University of California, Berkeley from 1989 to 1990 and received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Davis in 1995.

In 1997, Mr. Blencowe graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy and served as an Officer in the Central Los Angeles area until 1999. Following his service in Los Angeles, he worked in the San Francisco Area, Solano Area and Golden Gate Division, where Mr. Blencowe was promoted to Sergeant in 2006. From 2006 to 2013, Mr. Blencowe was Team Leader for the Golden Gate Division Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. From 2014–2015, he served in the San Jose Area before returning to the Golden Gate Division in 2016. Mr. Blencowe received his final assignment as Commander of the Napa Area in 2018 and was promoted to the rank of Captain.

For more than two decades, Mr. Blencowe has provided exemplary service in the face of unprecedented challenges. He has served with the Napa Air Operations Unit during the 2017 Atlas Peak Fire and responded to the active shooter incident at the Veterans Home of California, Yountville. In 2020, Mr. Blencowe provided critical support to multiple natural disasters in the Napa Area including the Glass and LNU Lightning Complex fires.

Mr. Blencowe is a devoted husband to his wife Melissa and the proud father of three daughters, Erin, Sarah and Emma.

Madam Speaker, I thank Captain Blencowe for his 25 years of selfless service and commitment to the people of California. His efforts have undoubtedly made our state a safer place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF  
MARGARET A. MIMS

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of a truly honorable public servant, Fresno County Sheriff, Margaret A. Mims.

Sheriff Mims has been a fixture in the Fresno County community for decades, serving as a peace officer for over 25 years. During her tenure, she has held the roles of Deputy Sheriff Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Sheriff, and finally Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner, a position she has held since 2006.

Sheriff Mims has led the Fresno County Sheriffs Department with distinction and honor for over 15 years and has been recognized by numerous organizations, universities, and community groups for her leadership. During her time as Sheriff, she has received the 31st Assembly District Woman of the Year Award, been named a "100 Stars for 100 Years" by the Fresno City College Centennial Alumna, received the Girls Scout's Woman Inspiring Girls Award, and has been named a Distinguished Alumni at both Fresno City College and National University. These are just some

of the many recognitions and awards she has received throughout her career and are a true testament to her impact on our community.

I want to personally state how thankful I am for the dedicated service of Sheriff Mims. Her courage, leadership, and commitment are truly inspiring, and I consider it an honor and a privilege to have worked with her and her office for so many years.

I urge all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring such a distinguished member of our Central Valley community, Sheriff Margaret M. Mims.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE LIFE  
AND LEGACY OF HIS EXCEL-  
LENCE PRINCE ASIEL BEN  
ISRAEL

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, these words are attributed to Sir Issac Watts, who wrote, and I paraphrase, "Were I so tall as to reach from pole to pole or grasp the ocean with my span, I must be measured by my soul, for the mind is the measure of the man."

Trying to describe Prince Asiel Ben Israel is no easy task because so many characteristics of desirability. He was a man of principle, a great husband, a provider, protector, a wonderful father, grandfather, great grandfather, a patriarch, and the leader of a tribe. He was a people's Prince born, educated, trained and prepared to lead. He was a visionary who understood that you cannot lead where you don't go and you cannot teach what you don't know. Prince was always searching for truth and knowledge and was exceptionally passionate about practically everything that he did or cared about.

He loved people, and I mean people, and he had a humanitarian spirit and expressed that, "all life sacred." it is now 4:00 am, in the morning, so let me wrap this up. I was blessed to spend many fortunate, precious, and meaningful hours with Prince. We traveled at least ten times to Africa, South Africa, West Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Many of these times it was just the two of us, and talk, talk, talk we did. We met with Heads of State, the ANC, Winnie Mandela, Members of Parliaments, academicians, grassroots groups, clerics, giants of industry, and sometimes I thought Prince was the greatest advocate and diplomat on earth, both at the same time, and he was always on point.

A gifted intellectual spiritual leader who used his knowledge, talents and skills to advance the causes of his people (all caring people), as he journeyed through a lifetime of service to humanity.

As I walked away from our last meeting with two of his sons and a government official from Ghana a few weeks ago, I had a feeling, first

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